City of Lafayette Staff Report

For:	City Council
By:	Leah C. Greenblat, Transportation Planner
Date Written:	February 20, 2009
Meeting Date:	March 9, 2009
Subject:	Downtown Bike Racks

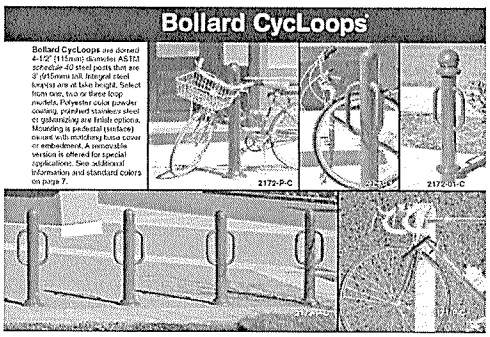
Introduction

Through 511ContraCosta.org, grant funding is available for the purchase and installation of bike racks in downtown Lafayette on both private and public property. This past summer, Janneke Petersen, Environmental Planning Intern and Claude Aiello, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Member, investigated possible locations for the racks and rack styles. The BPAC, Circulation Commission and DSIMPIC have all reviewed the rack style and possible locations and all review bodies recommend their installation.

511ContraCosta.org requires that for racks located in the public right-of-way, the City must sign an agreement and property owners must sign the agreement when racks are placed on private property. Three locations supporting approximately six racks have been identified within the public right of way and two locations supporting two-three racks have been identified on private property. Staff seeks the Council's approval to install the racks in the public right-of-way and facilitate installation of the racks on private property.

Discussion

The original style of bike rack listed in the Lafayette Downtown Street Improvement Master Plan is no longer the most desirable style or security system for securing bicycles. The bollard-style rack was selected in 1988 and is a single point supporting and locking style. Since this type of rack was specified, many changes and advances in bicycling have occurred. Research now shows that a bike rack that provides two-points of contact with a



Original DSIMPIC Specified Bollard-Style Bike Rack

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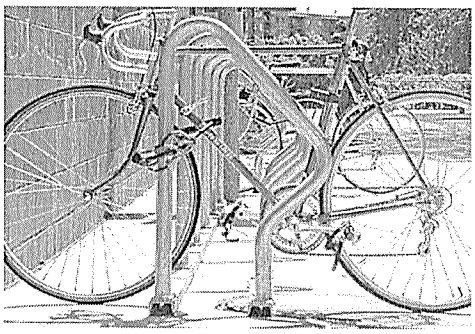
bicycle is the preferred method of bicycle parking. A two-point contact rack provides two opportunities to lock the bicycle which provides improved security, but it also better supports the bicycle and prevents it from being knocked around.



Newly DSIMPIC Approved Swerve-Style Bike Rack

Prior to installing more bike racks, staff pursued a revision of the DSIMP recommended rack. On January 21, 2009, DSIMPIC approved the selection of the "Swerve" style rack as the recommended DSIMP bike rack. DSIMPIC also proposed and recommended applying a label to the rack to clearly designate and promote its intended use for bike parking. The finish on the new rack would be similar to that specified for other downtown street furnishings.

Ms. Petersen and Mr. Aiello identified multiple locations in the downtown on public property where it might be appropriate to install the racks. They spoke with the fronting merchants and in one case they also spoke with a fronting property owner. All merchants supported the installation of the bike racks except the owner of Pizza Antica. That business owner did not want anything in front of his business, but a manager and customers indicated support for the idea. A similar situation occurred at Starbucks; the store manager supported the installation of the racks, but the property owner did not. At the public meetings before the BPAC, Circulation Commission and DSIMPIC, staff alerted these bodies to this feedback, but they all agreed to the four locations, described below, that could accommodate at least seven racks on public property, photos attached. The owner of Squirrels was subsequently contacted and he enthusiastically supported installing bike racks. The recommended bike locations within the public right-way are:

Quantity	Recommended Bike Rack Locations in City Right-of-Way
1	Sidewalk on the Southside of Mt. Diablo Blvd. west of Mtn. View Dr. in front of Quiznos
1	Sidewalk on the north side of Mt. Diablo Blvd. east of Dewing Ave. near Pizza Antica and Loot
1	Sidewalk on the Southside of Mt. Diablo Blvd. east of Lafayette Circle E. in front of Starbucks
3+	Within the Plaza area on the Southside of Plaza Way at Moraga Road near Squirrels Restaurant

Ms. Petersen and Mr. Aiello also identified locations on private property that might be appropriate for bike racks. Of these locations, two may be viable at this time:

Quantity	Recommended Bike Rack Locations on Private Property
1	Southside of Mt. Diablo Blvd. in front of Rising Loafer, photo attached
1-2	Southside at 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Desco Plaza

The adjacent business owner and property manager for these locations have indicated support for installing the racks, but final approval would be required from the affected property owners.

Once the locations are confirmed and paperwork signed, 511ContraCosta.org arranges for a contractor to purchase and install the racks. For work within the public right-of-way, the City will require an encroachment permit of the contractor so that staff will inspect the work prior to final acceptance. The contractor will need to work with the private property owners regarding installation details specific to their sites.

Fiscal Impact

None. Funding for the purchase and installation of the bike racks, both on private and public property, is available through a grant from 511ContraCosta.org. Sufficient grant funding is available to cover the range in bike rack quantities currently under consideration.

Recommendation

1. Authorize staff to sign 511ContraCosta.org's use agreement to purchase and install bike racks at the subject locations on public property.

2. Direct staff to work with the identified private property owners to seek their approval to purchase and install racks utilizing 511ContraCosta.org grant funds.

Attachments

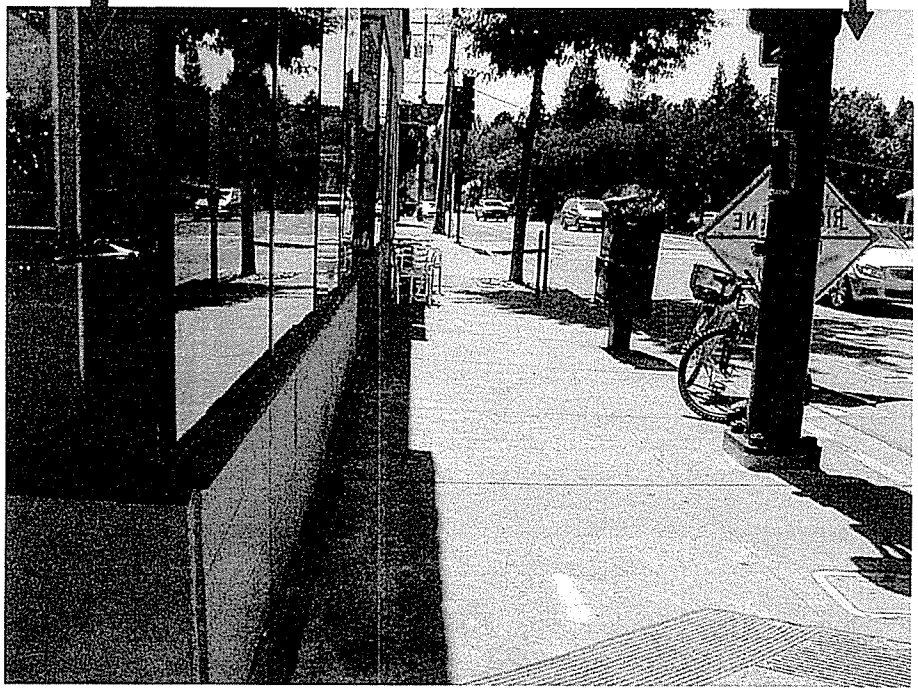
1. Photos

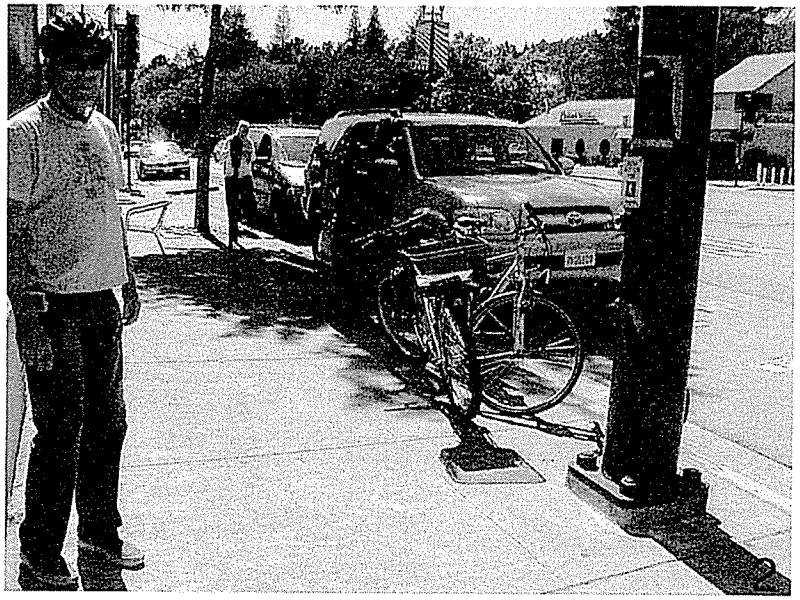
Quiznos-corner of Mount Diablo and Mountain View Drive (public property)

This shopping complex with Quiznos, Pacifico Coffee Shop and 360 Burrito is a prime biking destination, especially because of the coffee shop.

Quiznos

Mt. Diablo Blvd.





Pizza Antica (~~private~~ public property)

This location is highly visible and does not obstruct pedestrian traffic as the sidewalks here are wide. Also, it does not obstruct people getting out of their cars as it is in a red zone.

Starbucks Coffee-La Fiesta Square (public property)

Starbucks is a popular biking destination. This spot, directly in front of Starbucks, is out of the way of pedestrians and does not block any car space access. The white striped area on the pavement gives cars that are making a U-Turn extra space and cars cannot park there.

Plaza at Intersection of Mount Diablo and Moraga Road/Squirrels Restaurant (public property)

Middle School kids use this park and often come here via bike.

Squirrels

*The bikes are positioned wrong here: the rack would be positioned so that the bikes are parallel to the landscaping island.

In front of the Rising Loafer (private property)

There are often bikes parked in the vicinity of the Rising Loafer and adjoining shops.